

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-27 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Cain for the indication that previously pending Claims 1-10 and 12-27 are allowed (Notice of Allowance dated June 8, 2004). Applicants would like to bring the Office's attention to the enclosed opposition proceeding filed in the corresponding European application, as well as the references cited therein. Applicants also note that Claim 1 has been amended to limit the concentration of the ionic surfactant to 2.5 to 15% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer dispersion. None of the newly cited art discloses or suggests this claimed range. In fact, based on the Examples in the cited art, the concentration of the ionic surfactant can be calculated as less than 1% by weight. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the art cited in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement, as well as novelty in view thereof.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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